

Updates to HUSL Student Handbook related to Letter Grade Use and 4.33 Scale

201.1 Degree Requirements

To earn the Juris Doctor degree, a student must meet the following academic requirements within eighty-four (84) months after the student commenced law study:

c. achievement of a cumulative weighted grade-point average of at least 2.00;....

201.2 Class Ranking and Requirements for Earning Graduation Honors

a. Class rank shall be determined based upon the student's cumulative grade point average ("GPA") calculated to the third decimal place.

b. Honors are awarded to those students who graduate with the following grade point averages (as determined without rounding to the next highest integer):

Summa Cum Laude 3.93 or higher

Magna Cum Laude 3.60-3.92

Cum Laude 3.33-3.59

309 The Grading System

309.2 Letter Grades

304As of [Fall 2025], the School of Law uses a letter grading system with associated quality points as follows:

A+	4.33
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	.67
F	0.0

For reference, if faculty are converting numerical grades to letter grades, the following applies:

100-90	A+ 100 99 98	A+ 4.33
	A 97 96 95 94	A 4.00
	A- 93 92 91 90	A- 3.67
89-80	B+ 89 88 87	B+ 3.33
	B 86 85 84	B 3.00
	B- 83 82 81 80	B- 2.67
79-70	C+ 79 78 77	C+ 2.33
	C 76 75 74	C 2.00

	C- 73 72 71 70	C- 1.67
69-60	D+ 69 68 67	D+ 1.33
	D 66 65 64	D 1.00
	D- 63 62 61 60	D- .67
59-50	F 59	F 0.0

309.11 Incompletes

d. Typically, the alternative grade will be an “F”, especially in cases where the final examination is the main determinant of the course grade. In such a case, the instructor of the record shall assign a grade of “I/F”.

310.2 General Applicability of Grade Normalization Policy

(Duplicative of Section 201.2)

310.3 First Year Required Courses—Grade Normalization

The arithmetic mean for all grades in first year courses must fall in the following range: 2.67-3.0.

b. All grades in first year courses must meet the following grade distribution standard:

	MIN %	MAX %
A+/A/A-	10	20
B+/B/B-	35	60
C+/C/C-	20	40
D+/D/D-	0	15
F	0	5

310.4 Evidence, Constitutional Law II, and Professional Responsibility

a. The arithmetic mean for all grades in the foregoing courses must fall in the following range: 2.67-3.0.

b. All grades in these courses must meet the following grade distribution standard:

	MIN %	MAX %
A+/A/A-	10	20
B+/B/B-	35	60
C+/C/C-	20	40
D+/D/D-	0	15
F	0	5

c. Teachers of the same subject are encouraged, but not required to collaborate in determining the mean and the distribution of grades.

310.5 Upper Division Elective Courses with 30 or More Students

a. The arithmetic mean for all grades in the foregoing courses must fall in the following range: 2.67-3.33

b. The following grade distribution standard is recommended but not required:

	MIN %	MAX %
A+/A/A-	10	25

B+/B/B-	30	65
C+/C/C-	15	35
D+/D/D-	0	15
F	0	5

c. Teachers of the same subject are encouraged, but not required to collaborate in determining the mean and the distribution of grades.

310.6 Upper Division Courses with Fewer than 30 but more than 10 Students

- The arithmetic mean for all grades in the foregoing courses must fall in the following range: 2.67-3.33
- The mean cap requirement does not apply for Legal Writing III (LWIII) seminars or other electives with paper requirements similar to LWIII requirements. See 202.3 regarding LWIII.
- There is no grade distribution standard for these courses.

310.8 Grade Normalization Rounding Rules

- In cases where the arithmetic calculation of distribution ranges produces a fraction, a fraction equal to or greater than one-half (*0.50*) is to be rounded up to the next higher whole number.
- A fraction less than one-half (*0.50*) is to be rounded down to the next lower whole number.

OTHER SECTIONS REQUIRING AMENDMENT FOR CONVERSION OF NUMERICAL GRADES OR GPA TO LETTER GRADE OR QUALITY POINTS GPA.

202.3 Additional Upper-Division J.D. Requirements

Legal Writing III (2-4 credit hours)

A minimum grade of C must be earned on the written product to obtain LWIII credit for all non-Journal or Law Review papers. Students who write comments or notes as part of the *Howard Law Journal* or the *Howard Human & Civil Rights Law Review* must earn a grade of at least B to obtain LWIII credit.

202.5 Independent Study

2. The student must have earned a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 2.67 at the time of application.

203.1 Study Abroad Programs Sponsored by Howard University School of Law

To participate in a Howard University-sponsored study abroad program, students must have a cumulative weighted grade point average of 2.00 at the time of application to be eligible to participate.

203.2 Other ABA-Approved Study Abroad Programs

b. Students must have a cumulative weighted grade point average of 2.33 at the time of application to be eligible to participate.

204.1 Howard Law Journal

c. Satisfaction of Legal Writing III through HCR Participation

2. As required for Journal, the student must earn a minimum grade of B on the paper to earn LWIII credit.

204.2 Howard Human & Civil Rights Law Review

c. Satisfaction of Legal Writing III through HCR Participation

2. As required for HCR, the student must earn a minimum grade of B on the paper to earn LWIII credit.

304 Credit for Courses Taken at Other Law Schools

304.1 Prior Approval Required for Transfer Credit

- b. Transfer credits will be granted only for a course in which the grade earned was at least a “C”.

304.3 Transfer Credits for Elective Courses

b. Permission to receive transfer credit toward graduation for an elective course will usually be granted if each of the following conditions is met:

1. a student petitioning to take a course at another law school must have a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 2.33 at Howard University School of Law at the time of the student’s petition; and

305 Retention Standards

These retention standards govern all Juris Doctor students.

305.1 First-Year Juris Doctor Students

b. Minimum G.P.A. Required

1. A juris doctor student who has a cumulative weighted average of less than 1.67 at the end of the second semester of their first year is ineligible to continue at the School of Law.

305.3 Minimum G.P.A. Required

- a. A juris doctor student who has a cumulative weighted average of less than 2.00 at the end of the fourth semester (which does not count summer semesters) or thereafter is ineligible to continue at the School of Law.
- b. A transfer student who has a cumulative weighted average of less than 2.00 at the end of any semester is ineligible to continue at the School of Law.

305.4 Probation after the End of the First Year

a. Definition

1. A juris doctor student who has a cumulative weighted grade point average between 1.67 and 1.99 after the end of the second semester of the first year is on probation and must comply with the requirements of the third-semester (upper-class) Academic Support Program (2L ASP).
2. Probation shall terminate during the semester in which the student obtains a cumulative GPA of 2.00.

305.5 Restriction and Requirements for Students on Probation

c. Probation Advisory

1. Students on probation should be advised by the appropriate administrative official that engaging in outside work during that semester will make it difficult, if not impossible, to bring their averages up to 2.00 by the end of four semesters.

307.7 Conditions Applicable to Students Readmitted After Academic Dismissal

a. The following conditions, restrictions, and requirements shall apply to a student who has been granted readmission after academic dismissal:

1. All grades previously received by readmitted students (including failing grades) will be counted in their cumulative weighted average, except grades received in Pass/Fail courses.
2. When the readmitted student has a cumulative weighted average of less than 2.00 at the time of readmission, that student has two semesters from the time of readmission in which to raise his or her average to 2.00 or better.
3. A student who has a cumulative weighted average of less than 2.00 at the end of two semesters after readmission is ineligible to continue at the School of Law.

- b. A readmitted student shall be on probation.
- c. Probation shall terminate during the semester in which the student obtains a cumulative GPA of 2.00.
- d. The following conditions shall apply to a readmitted student on probation. A readmitted student on probation may not:
 - 1. participate in co-curricular activities such as law journal and the moot courts;
 - 2. earn a grade below C- in any course while on probation, or
 - 3. participate in externship; and
 - 4. other conditions on readmission and remaining in good standing at the School of Law may be imposed.
- e. Earning a grade below C- while the readmitted student is on probation under this provision shall result in immediate dismissal from the law school.

604 Degree Requirements

To receive the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree, a student must meet the following requirements within three years of the student's initial enrollment:

- c. Achieve a cumulative weighted average of at least 2.33 at the time of graduation;

605.3 Other LL.M. Requirements

- a. Minimum grade for credit

In order to get credit in any course, a candidate must earn a grade of no less than C- in that course. Any grade below C- will be considered a failing grade.